

La Paz Community School Science Safety Contract

Working in a science laboratory is normally very safe. To ensure your personal safety and the safety of others, you need to reduce the risks associated with laboratory work. Risk in the science lab can come from either physical or chemical hazards. By examining these hazards, you will understand why the following rules have been developed for working in scientific laboratories.

Chemical hazards result from exposure to hazardous chemicals from absorption through skin or eye contact, inhalation, ingestion, or injection. Physical hazards include falls, cuts, eye injury, electrical shock, and fire.

1. **PROTECT YOUR EYES.** Appropriate eye protection must be worn at all times in the laboratory. Goggles provide maximum protection from splashes. Contact lenses should not be worn. Unventilated goggles are essential if contact lenses are to be worn.
2. **WEAR APPROPRIATE PROTECTIVE CLOTHING.** Chemicals may burn or irritate the skin. Some chemicals are readily absorbed through the skin and enter your body. Your clothing should cover your legs to the knees. Shorts are not appropriate for the laboratory. Loose clothing should not be worn because it may dip into chemicals or fall into a flame and catch fire.
3. **WEAR SHOES THAT COVER YOUR FEET.** Sandals and open-toed shoes offer no protection to your feet from broken glass that is frequently found in science laboratories. Also, shoes protect your feet from chemical spills.
4. **DO NOT EAT FOOD, DRINK BEVERAGES, OR APPLY COSMETICS IN THE LABORATORY.** These activities are ways by which you can accidentally ingest harmful chemicals.
5. **DO NOT TASTE ANY CHEMICAL.**
6. **DO NOT SMELL CHEMICALS DIRECTLY.** Smell a chemical only if your teacher specifically tells you to do so. Then, use your hand to fan the vapor to your nose. Do not smell it directly.
7. **DO NOT PIPET SOLUTIONS BY MOUTH.**
8. **WASH YOUR HANDS WITH SOAP AND WATER BEFORE LEAVING THE LABORATORY.**
9. **KNOW THE HAZARDS OF THE MATERIAL BEING USED.** Read labels carefully to make sure you are using the right chemical. Remember that hot and cold glassware looks the same, so allow ample time for cooling.
10. **TIE BACK LOOSE HAIR.** Dangling hair may catch on fire or may fall into a chemical solution.
11. **KNOW THE SAFETY EQUIPMENT.** Know the location of eye wash fountains, safety showers, fire blankets, fire extinguishers, first aid kits, and emergency exits. Know how to respond in case of an emergency. Know how to use the safety equipment.
12. **CARRY OUT ONLY THE EXPERIMENTS ASSIGNED BY YOUR TEACHER.**
13. **NEVER REMOVE CHEMICALS FROM THE LABORATORY.**
14. **ONLY HANDLE LIVING ORGANISMS WHEN INSTRUCTED TO DO SO BY YOUR TEACHER.**
15. **NEVER WORK IN THE LABORATORY ALONE.** In case of an accident, you may need another person to prevent injury or even save your life.
16. **NEVER ENGAGE IN HORSEPLAY, GAMES, OR PRANKS IN THE LABORATORY.** Careless behavior can endanger yourself and others and will not be tolerated.
17. **DEMONSTRATE SAFE BEHAVIOR.** Obey all safety instructions given by your teacher or listed in your experimental procedure. Clean up spills immediately if you know how. If you are uncertain how to clean up a spill or for large spills, notify your instructor immediately. Before leaving the laboratory, return equipment and chemicals to their proper place. Clean up your work area!!!
18. **DISPOSE OF ALL WASTE MATERIALS ACCORDING TO YOUR TEACHER'S INSTRUCTIONS.**
19. **REPORT ANY ACCIDENTS OF UNSAFE CONDITIONS TO YOUR TEACHER IMMEDIATELY.**

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THIS MUST BE SIGNED AND RETURNED BEFORE YOU CAN DO ANY LABORATORY ACTIVITIES!!!

Students have been informed of necessary science safety guidelines by the instructor through a written handout and class discussion.

Students will be removed from the laboratory by the teacher if:

- Their personal appearance or dress is such that they can cause injury to themselves or others,
- They are behaving in such a manner that they can cause injury to themselves or others,
- They are not following the prescribed safety rules for the laboratory or the particular activity being conducted, or
- They have not completed the pre-lab activities that are needed for them to work safely in the laboratory.

I, _____, a student in _____ at La Paz Community School, have read and agree to follow all safety rules and regulations given by my teacher. I realize that following these rules is necessary to assure the safe operation of the school laboratory and to provide a safe environment not only for myself, but for my fellow students and my teachers as well. I will, therefore, cooperate fully with the teacher and students to assure all of us work in the safest laboratory possible. I will act responsibly to look for possible safety hazards, and I will immediately point out these hazards to the instructor. I realize that as a student, much of the responsibility for safety is in my hands. I understand that violation of these rules may result in the loss of laboratory privileges and possible disciplinary measures.

Contact Lens Wearers

Wearing Contacts in the laboratory is the subject of controversy because of the extra risk they provide in case chemicals enter the eye. Some experts believe that contacts should never be worn in the laboratory. Other experts believe that contact lenses can be worn with proper eye protection (nonventilated goggles).

I will wear contacts in the laboratory. _____ YES _____ NO

If yes, I realize the hazards associated with the use of contacts, and I will strictly adhere to the eye protection requirement.

Student's Signature _____

Date _____

Parent's Signature _____

Date _____